

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CCO-00 NSC-05 SOE-02
AF-10 ARA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-12 PM-05 H-02
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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY
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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: AUGUST 9 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR
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1. WALTER PINCUS OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT CARTER
ADMINISTRATION HAS BACKED AWAY FROM ITS SUPPORT FOR QUICK
CONCLUSION OF CTB AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO ADMINISTRATION
AND CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES, PINCUS REPORTED, NEGOTIATIONS
WILL CONTINUE IN GENEVA, BUT THEY NOW EXPECT NO AGREEMENT
UNTIL SALT TREATY HAS BEEN SIGNED AND DEALT WITH BY SENATE.

THREE MONTHS AGO, PRESIDENT CARTER WAS DETERMINED TO PUSH FOR RAPID AGREEMENT ON FIVE-YEAR, ZERO-YIELD BAN ON NUCLEAR TESTS, PINCUS SAID. AT THAT TIME, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS BELIEVED SUCH AGREEMENT WOULD EASILY WIN SENATE APPROVAL, HE ADDED. "BUT NOW THEY BELIEVE IT WOULD FACE STRONG OPPOSITION THERE AND MIGHT ENDANGER SALT TWO AGREEMENT IF BOTH WERE CONSIDERED SIMULTANEOUSLY. FIERCE OPPOSITION FROM ENERGY AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS OVER 'ZERO-YIELD' CONCEPT -- WHICH WOULD ALLOW EXPLOSION OF ONLY SMALLEST NUCLEAR DEVICES -- AND AN APPARENT CHANGE IN CARTER'S ATTITUDE TOWARD DURATION OF BAN ALSO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO CHANGE. ANOTHER FACTOR IS DIFFICULTY BEING ENCOUNTERED IN GETTING SOVIET AGREEMENT FOR MONITORING PROCEDURES."

PINCUS SAID SOVIETS FIRST BALKED, THEN ACCEPTED "BLACK BOXES" BUT ONLY IF RUSSIAN RATHER THAN AMERICAN PERSONNEL COLLECTED FINDINGS FROM THESE SEISMIC DEVICES. PINCUS SAID THIS ISSUE REMAINS UNRESOLVED. MEANTIME, NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHED REUTER DISPATCH FROM GENEVA SAYING U.S., U.K. AND USSR REPORTED SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN CTB NEGOTIATIONS. BRITISH DELEGATE, SIR DERICK ASHE, TOLD CCD THAT SOME SPECIFIC ISSUES, INCLUDING HOW TO GUARD AGAINST CHEATING, STILL HAVE TO BE RESOLVED.

2. LOS ANGELES TIMES EDITORIAL WRITER ERNEST CONINE SAID "THANKS TO SHORTCOMINGS IN PROSPECTIVE NEW STRATEGIC ARMS UNCLASSIFIED

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LIMITATION AGREEMENT," DON'T BE SURPRISED IF DEBATE ERUPTS AGAIN ON QUESTION OF WHETHER U.S. SHOULD BUILD ABM SYSTEM. CONINE SAID "BARRING UNFORESEEN NEGOTIATING BREAKTHROUGHS, NEW AGREEMENT WILL SUFFER FROM GLARING AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DEFICIENCY." THERE IS NOTHING IN PROSPECTIVE SALT TWO AGREEMENT, HE POINTED OUT, TO HEAD OFF SOVIET CAPABILITY BY MID-1980S TO DESTROY MINUTEMAN FORCE IN SUPRISE ATTACK. THIS SPECIAL THREAT, CONINE CONTINUED, PRESENTS SITUATION TAILOR-MADE FOR REEMERGENCE OF ABM. "MUTUAL DEPLOYMENT OF THIN ABM SYSTEM -- ONE ABLE TO BLUNT MASSIVE ATTACK ON LAND-BASED MISSILES BUT NOT ABLE TO STOP ANYTHING BEYOND LIGHT ATTACK ON POPULATION CENTERS -- MIGHT COME TO MAKE GREAT DEAL OF SENSE. IT COULD MAKE U.S. LESS NERVOUS IN FACE OF SOVIET FIRST-STRIKE THREAT. AND IT WOULD ENABLE RUSSIANS TO REST BIT EASIER ABOUT SMALL BUT SCARY CHINESE ABILITY TO THROW FEW MISSILES IN DIRECTION OF MOSCOW OR LENINGRAD. MAYBE IDEA SHOULD BE ON AGENDA FOR SALT THREE."

3. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT NEW GROUP, CALLING ITSELF COALITION FOR PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH, HAS BEEN ORGANIZED IN CONGRESS. ITS 148 MEMBERS INCLUDE

REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS KNOWN FOR THEIR CONSERVATIVE VIEWS ON MILITARY AND FOREIGN POLICY. AFFILIATED WITH CONGRESSIONAL GROUP ARE SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS ALSO IDENTIFIED WITH CONSERVATIVE CAUSES, BURT SAID. COALITION IS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S DEFENSE POLICIES. BURT SAID "ALTHOUGH COALITION REPRESENTS MINORITY IN CONGRESS, ITS CREATION REFLECTS GROWING SUPPORT FOR DEFENSE SPENDING ON CAPITOL HILL."

4. NEWSWEEK (AUGUST 14) SAID CARTER ADMINISTRATION, HARD-PRESSED TO HOLD DOWN FEDERAL SPENDING IN FACE OF RAPIDLY RISING INFLATION, IS CAUGHT IN DEFENSE BUDGET BIND "FOR WHICH THERE IS NO POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. HEART OF PROBLEM: THERE IS NOTHING IN SALT AGREEMENT THAT U.S. UNCLASSIFIED

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IS NEGOTIATING WITH SOVIET UNION TO KEEP SOVIETS FROM BEING ABLE TO LAUNCH DEVASTATING ATTACK ON U.S. LAND-BASED MISSILES." IF ADMINISTRATION DECIDES TO PROTECT THESE STRATEGIC DEFENSE MISSILES, IT WILL COST MORE THAN 20 BILLION DOLLARS, NEWSWEEK POINTED OUT. BUT FUNDS TO MAKE EVEN START PROBABLY CANNOT BE EKED OUT OF FISCAL 1980 DEFENSE BUDGET, WHICH HAD ITS CEILING CUT BY OMB TO 135 BILLION DOLLARS FROM 137.2 BILLION. MEANWHILE, NEWSWEEK SAID, MILITARY WARNS THAT THERE IS NO TIME FOR DELAY. NEWSWEEK SAID THERE WILL BE "HARSH ARGUMENTS" WITH ADMINISTRATION OVER NEW SYSTEMS. ACDA DIRECTOR PAUL WARNKE WAS QUOTED AS QUESTIONING HOW FAR U.S. SHOULD GO IN PROTECTING ITS LAND-BASED MISSILES. "IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE NOT DIVERT TOO MUCH OF OUR DEFENSE MONEY TO DUBIOUS STRATEGIC WEAPONS," WARNKE REPORTEDLY WARNED. NEWSWEEK SAID WARNKE THINKS THAT LAND-BASED MISSILES SHOULD BE RETAINED AS PART OF U.S. MILITARY ARSENAL, BUT HE ALSO SUGGESTS THAT "MAYBE WE WILL HAVE TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH THEIR VULNERABILITY." NEWSWEEK SAID "SUCH AN IDEA IS ANATHEMA TO PENTAGON. BUT SOME FACTIONS IN ADMINISTRATION AND IN CONGRESS ARE STARTING TO TALK SAME LINE. AND EVEN IN NSC THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION THAT TIME HAS COME FOR U.S. TO THINK ABOUT GIVING UP ON LAND-BASED SECOND-STRIKE STRATEGIC FORCES AND RELY INSTEAD ON BOMBERS, CRUISE MISSILES AND SUBMARINE-BEARING BALLISTIC MISSILES. SENATE HAS DIRECTED PENTAGON TO STUDY QUESTION AND REPORT BACK THIS FALL. WHEN IT DOES, FIERY DEBATE IS INEVITABLE." CHRISTOPHER

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